

Western State Hospital
Staunton, Virginia
Local Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes
Jeffrey's Building, Rom 95 at 12:30
September 27, 2010

Present: Donna Gum, Hal Meyers, Stephanie Sault, Rob Wade, Ski Washington, Mahlon Webb, Committee Members; Chuck Collins, Mark Seymour, WSH/Regional Advocate; Erin Haw, VOPA, Ellen Harrison Liaison to WSH Director

Absent: Mahlon Webb, Committee Member, Zachary DeVore, VOPA

Guests: A.T. (C7-8 patient)
M.S. (A6 patient)
Dr. Brian Kiernan, A2

Mr. Meyers, Vice Chair, called the meeting of the Local Human Rights Committee to order on September 27, 2010. With motion from Mr. Wade and a second by Rev. Sault, the minutes from the August meeting were approved as written. A quorum of members was present. The agenda was approved on a motion from Mr. Washington and seconded by Rev. Sault.

The committee opened the meeting to anyone wishing to express concerns during the public comment period. C 7/8 patient A.T. expressed concern about being kept in the hospital against her will. Discussions regarding A.T.'s discharge are ongoing between A.T., Mr. Collins and Ms. Haw.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Wade, the committee went into executive session pursuant to Virginia Code §2.2-3711 A.15 and section 2.2-3705.5 for the discussion of medical and mental records excluded from the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, to solely discuss the issues surrounding discharge for patient A.T.

Upon reconvening in open session, all members of the Local Human Rights Committee certified that to the best of each ones' knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempt from statutory open meeting requirements, and only public business matters identified in the motion to convene the closed session were discussed in closed session.

A6 patient M.S. discussed concerns that were brought to Citizens Council regarding the lack of locks to secure personal belongings on wards C5/6 and C7/8.

Mr. Collins gave a verbal Advocate's Report commenting on the 11 cases being worked on over the past month.

Ms. Haw announced that VOPA has given presentations on registering to vote and restoration of rights at assisted living facilities which reached many DBHDS facilities. Ms. Haw commented that several of the complaints received were regarding staff showing favoritism. This issue was also brought up during Citizens Council, along with the perception of inequitable consequences. It was decided by the committee to invite Mr. Jim Stevens to our next meeting. Mr. Stevens is the Director of Rehab Services and may be able to provide further insight into consistency of consequences in Stribling Building.

Western State Hospital
Staunton, Virginia
Local Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes
Jeffrey's Building, Rom 95 at 12:30
September 27, 2010

Monthly reports for Patient Complaints, Barriers to Discharge, and IFPC Minutes were all reviewed. Housing continues to be the number one barrier to discharge. Mr. Collins noted that all three reports listed above are helpful in his work.

Various team members from A2 presented ward rules. A2 is a forensic ward and has revised their ward rules to be consistent with B2. This consistency is important because B2 is a "seasoned forensic unit" and also because B2 patients periodically transfer to A2 based on census. Updates made in order to achieve consistency with B2 include changes to cabinet time, clothing, radios, telephones and visitors. A2 staff will send a copy of the revised ward rules to members of the committee.

Under Community Connections, Ms. Gum announced that Mr. Collins and Mr. Meyers were to be the winners of two prestigious awards being given during the Mental Health of America Annual Dinner and Auction. Mr. Collins will receive the J. Lewis Gibbs Award and Mr. Meyers the Bell Award. Ms. Gum also shared information from the Legislative Forum. Mr. Wade shared information regarding a dinner being held November 8th which will assist parents and young adults with choices after school ends. An attorney who works with families will be speaking at this dinner to be held at the Augusta Health Community Care Building.

Mr. John Beghtol discussed the new Western State Hospital with the committee. To date Mr. Beghtol has done seven clubhouse presentations of similar material. The new hospital is slated to open in 2013 and was designed for ease of patient movement / flow and PSR programming. There will be 246 private rooms with private bathrooms in each room. There is currently a mock up area on WSH grounds that Mr. Beghtol encouraged the committee to visit.

The next meeting will be held November 29, 2010 at 12:30 p.m.

With no further business to discuss and from a motion made by Mr. Meyers and second by Mr. Wade, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:

Donna Gum, Chair

Elizabeth T. Little, LHRC Secretary